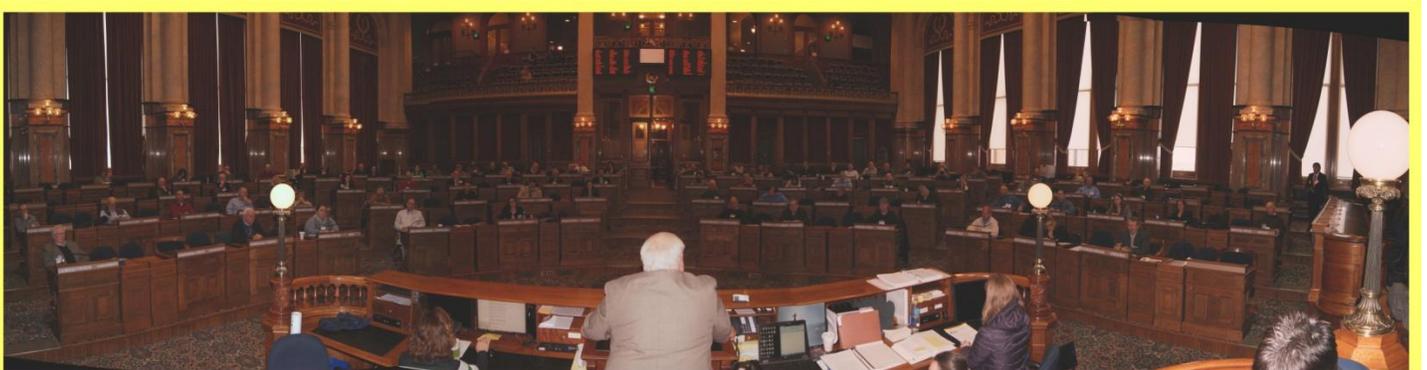


2014 REAP Congress Report

Report to: Governor Branstad
Iowa Legislature
Natural Resources Commission



***Resource Enhancement and Protection
Celebrates 25 Years***



2014 REAP Congress in Session

Photo by Al Ourth

Inquires pertaining to this report may be directed to:

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January 30, 2014

TO: Governor Terry Branstad
Michael Marshall, Secretary of the Senate
Carmine Boal, Chief Clerk of the House
Margo Underwood, Chair of the Natural Resources Commission

As required by Section 455A.17, Code of Iowa, I present you with the report of the 2014 Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Congress which was conducted on January 4th in the chambers of the House of Representatives.

Eighty-one of the ninety delegates to the REAP Congress attended. Those delegates were elected by 544 Iowans in the fall during the 18 regional assemblies conducted throughout the state.

Iowans strongly believe that REAP can be one of the state's most important tools to stimulate economic development, improve health and their quality of life. The 2014 REAP Congress took a number of actions in this regard.

Chief among these actions are to fully fund REAP at \$25 Million in celebration of the 25th Anniversary, retain the current formula for distribution of the REAP funds and thank the Governor and General Assembly for their continued dedication to protecting the REAP Program.

REAP is recognized as Iowa's primary local funding program for natural and cultural resources. The massive amount of public participation, culminating in actions by the Congress, makes it truly a grassroots led program. The delegates thank you for the support you have given and urge you to action for REAP in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chuck Gipp". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Chuck Gipp, Director
Iowa Department of Natural Resources

2014 REAP Congress January 4, 2014 House of Representatives Chambers

Roll Call

81 of the 90 delegates to the REAP Congress attended. The delegates were elected by 544 Iowans in the fall of 2013 during 18 regional assemblies conducted throughout the state. A list of the Delegates by County is included at the end of this report.

Guest Remarks

Bruce Trautman, DNR Deputy Director, called the Congress to order at 9:00 a.m. and prepared them for their deliberations.

Tom Hazelton and Joe McGovern, Co-Chairs of the REAP Alliance, remarked on the lasting impact of REAP and its impact on Iowa.

In celebration of the 25th Anniversary of REAP, a short video was shown which included some of the original REAP key players discussing how the program was established from concept to legislative reality 25 years ago. This video will be available on www.iowareap.com.



Delegates watch the REAP 25th Anniversary video. Photo by Tom Hazelton.

Election of Congress Chair

Jon Kruse of Buena Vista County was elected unanimously.

2013 REAP Assembly Report

During the months of October and November 2013, 18 Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Assemblies were conducted throughout Iowa. The REAP Assemblies are required, per Iowa Code Chapter 455A.17, to be conducted on odd numbered years to provide attendees with information about REAP expenditures, ask attendees to identify opportunities or changes in policy, programs or funding, vote on motions for the five elected delegates per region to vote on at REAP Congress. 544 Iowans participated in the REAP Assemblies. In addition to electing delegates, the participants made 57 motions that were forwarded to the REAP Congress for consideration at their January 4, 2014 gathering.

Individual Assembly Reports, including specific information addressed in each of the 18 Assemblies are included at the end of this report.

Action Items by Congress

1. Motion: **The 2014 REAP Congress recommends that the Iowa Legislature fund REAP at \$25 Million in celebration of the 25th Anniversary.** Al Ourth, moved. Dick Heft, second. Vote: Yes: 80, No: 0. Motion carried.
2. Motion: **The 2014 REAP Congress recommends that the REAP formula remains the same.** Al Ourth, moved. Bob Benton, second. Vote: Aye: 79, No: 1. Motion carried.
3. Motion: **The 2014 REAP Congress recommends that the legislature fully fund the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation trust fund through passage of a 3/8 of a percent increase of Iowa's statewide sales tax.** Leslie Berckes, moved. Bob Benton, second. Vote: Yes: 77, No: 4. Motion carried.
 - a. Discussion on how the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation would impact REAP.
4. Motion: **The 2014 REAP Congress recommends that the City Parks and Open Space criteria for population and award amounts are re-evaluated.** Jason Etyre, moved. John Lloyd, second. Vote: 69, No: 10. Motion carried.
 - a. Discussion noted that the population categories have not been evaluated in 25 years.
5. Motion: **The 2014 REAP Congress recommends that the Conservation Education (CEP) fund be increased from \$350,000 to \$500,000.** Chuck Unga, moved. Marcy Seavey, second. Vote: Aye: 38, No: 44. Motion failed.
 - a. Many concerns broadly voiced for the importance of increased conservation education, but against changing the REAP formula.
6. Motion: **The 2014 REAP Congress recommends that REAP be fully funded in subsequent years after the 25th year.** Anna MacDonald, moved. Duane McFadden, second. Vote: 36, No: 46. Motion failed.
 - a. Many in support noted that the motion of \$25 Million for the 25th Anniversary only covered the FY15 year and there are no REAP Congress recommendations on funding limits for FY16. Those opposing the motion wanted to keep the focus on "25 for 25."



Photo by Al Ourth

7. Motion: **Property tax payments are phased out because of local benefits. 1-10 years of new project, 100% paid. On year 11-20, 50% of property taxes paid. Year 21-25, 25% of taxes paid and year 26 and after, no property taxes are paid.** John Klein, moved. Died for lack of a second.
8. Motion: **The 2014 REAP Congress recommends that the grant portion of the County Conservation Board category be reviewed to consider a greater emphasis on smaller projects.** Earnie Aust, moved. Matthew Purdy, second. Vote: Yes: 43, No: 36. Motion carried.
 - a. Those in support noted that the funds are very competitive and setting aside a portion to fund smaller projects would spread the funds over a larger portion of the state. Some in opposition noted that they did not want to micromanage the grant program.
9. Motion: **The 2014 REAP Congress recommends that the programs to enhance our forest resources continue.** Gary Klicker, moved. Molly Houk Sheetz, second. Vote: Yes: 61, No: 18. Motion carried.
10. Motion: **The 2014 REAP Congress recommends that the funding level for REAP be raised from \$20 million to \$30 million in FY16 and beyond.** Lance Nelson, moved. Joyce Harms, 2nd. Vote: Yes: 11, No: 70. Motion failed.
 - a. The discussion was similar to that in motion number 6.
11. Motion: **The 2014 REAP Congress recommends that a leaflet be created for instructors or teacher regarding the real issues that occur when a CAFO [concentrated animal feeding operation] moves in next door.** Gary Klicker: moved. Molly Ketchum: seconded. Vote: Yes: 6, No: 75. Motion failed.
 - a. Those in favor thought that this information was important for people to know. Those opposed noted that they did not think it was an effective mechanism or a good use of REAP funds.
12. Motion: **The 2014 REAP Congress recommends that the funding level for REAP be raised from \$20 million to \$25 million in FY15 and in subsequent years.** Nelson, moved. Died for lack of a second.
13. Motion: **The 2014 REAP Congress would like to thank the Governor and General Assembly for supporting REAP for the past 24 years.** Bob Benton, moved. Joe Preston, second. Vote: Yes: 79, No: 0. Motion carried.



Delegates from NW Iowa participate in the Congress. From right: Nick Beek and Jim Henning. Photo by Tom Hazelton.

14. Motion: **The 2014 REAP Congress would like to recommend that the Governor declare 2014 the “Year of REAP.”** Marcy Seavey, moved. Matthew Purdy, second. Vote: Yes: 80, No: 0. Motion carried.
15. Motion: **The 2014 REAP Congress is supportive of the Nutrient Reduction Strategy in the State of Iowa.** Al Schafbauch, moved. John Lloyd, second. Vote: Yes: 15, Nay: 63. Motion failed.
 - a. Discussion included descriptions of how the Nutrient Reduction Strategy is being implemented, voluntary programs and some who did not feel comfortable enough with the material to vote.

Motion to adjourn at 1:54 p.m. passed unanimously.



Delegates from SE Iowa pose for a picture. From left: LaVon Worley, Katie Hammond and Al Ourth. Photo by Al Ourth.

Attachment 2: List of Congress Delegates by County

Name of Delegate	County	Name of Delegate	County	Name of Delegate	County
Matthew Purdy	Benton	Bob Benton	Fremont	Lee Geertz	Muscatine
Linda Laylin	Black Hawk	Rebecca Castle	Fremont	John Matz	Muscatine
Marcy Seavey	Black Hawk	Dan Towers	Greene	Joe Preston	Muscatine
Molly Ketchum	Boone	Deb Crosser	Hardin	Erwin Aust	Page
Joyce Harms	Bremer	Judson Frisk	Harrison	Matt Ridge	Page
Patty Petersen	Buchanan	Travis Kraus	Henry	Darrell Frerichs	Palo Alto
Jon Kruse	Buena Vista	Michael Natvig	Howard	Nick Beeck	Plymouth
George North	Butler	Robert Lynch	Humboldt	Jane Clark	Polk
Jason Christensen	Carroll	Steve Hummel	Ida	Pat Knueven	Polk
John Klein	Carroll	Jennie Wilcox	Jackson	Leslie Berckes	Polk
Jack Wardell	Carroll	Pete Tollenaere	Jefferson	Bernie Bolton	Pottawattami e
Duane McFadden	Cass	Terry Dahms	Johnson	Mark Vavroch	Poweshiek
Chuck Varnum	Cedar	Rose Rohr	Jones	Kate Zimmerman	Ringgold
Kim Groh	Cerro Gordo	Jason Etnyre	Kossuth	Larry Makoben	Scott
Chad Brown	Cherokee	Mary Bulger	Lee	Dan McNeil	Scott
Lee Schoenewe	Clay	Dick Heft	Linn	Marlene Ehresman	Story
Brian Gibbs	Clayton	Jessica Rilling	Linn	John Lloyd	Tama
James Schroeder	Clinton	Katie Hammond	Louisa	Al Schafbuch	Tama
Lance Nelson	Crawford	Alan Lange	Madison	John Tapken	Union
Garry Klicker	Davis	Anna MacDonald	Madison	Bob Steingreaber	Van Buren
Gene Olsen	Decatur	Jeff VanDerBeek	Mahaska	Gene Rathje	Wapello
Chuck Unga	Delaware	Dan DeCook	Marion	Sam Adams	Webster
Alan Ourth	Des Moines	Julie Stahl	Marshall	Stephanie Houk Sheetz	Webster
LaVon Worley	Des Moines	Doug Kuhlmann	Monona	Jon Thrans	Webster
Lee Sorenson	Dickinson	Dan Lennie	Monroe	Todd Von Enhwegen	Winnebago
Jessica Wagner	Dubuque	Deborah Morgan	Monroe	Brian Fankhauser	Winneshiek
Rod Marlatt	Fayette	James Nelson	Monroe	Jim Henning	Woodbury
Mary Jo Burkgren	Floyd	Michael Runyan	Monroe		
Laura Elfers	Floyd	Barbara Johnson	Montgomery		

Attachment 2: Full REAP Assembly Report



2013 REAP Assembly Report

During the months of October and November, 18 Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Assemblies were conducted throughout Iowa. The REAP Assemblies are required, per Iowa Code Chapter 455A.17, to be conducted on odd numbered years to provide attendees with information about REAP expenditures, ask attendees to identify opportunities or changes in policy, programs or funding, vote on motions for the five elected delegates per region to vote on at REAP Congress. 544 Iowans participated in the 2013 REAP Assemblies. In addition to electing delegates, the participants made 57 motions that will be forwarded to the REAP Congress for consideration on January 4, 2014.

The following motions were approved at the Assemblies. The bold number behind the motion indicates the number of Assemblies at which it was approved.

- 1) Recommend that the Governor and Legislature fund REAP at \$25 Million for the programs' 25th year anniversary. **17**
- 2) Recommend that the REAP formula stays the same. **7**
- 3) Encourage the Legislature to raise the sales tax to support Iowa's Water and Land Legacy. **7**
- 4) Recommend that the City Parks and Open Space criteria for population and award amounts are re-evaluated. **5**
- 5) Recommend that REAP Conservation Education Program be raised to \$500,000. **2**
- 6) Recommend that if the Iowa Legislature implement the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund (IWiLL) that REAP will not be negatively impacted. **1**
- 7) Recommend that the REAP is fully funded. **1**
- 8) Recommend that the \$0.22/1000 assessed value county millage for eligibility for county per capita and grants be raised to \$0.27. **1**
- 9) Expand existing programs to women landowners through the REAP Conservation Education Program. **1**
- 10) Direct REAP staff to investigate mechanisms for allowing endowments for maintenance.
- 11) Consider that a portion of the natural resource license plate funds go back to the REAP County Committee. **1**
- 12) Property tax payments are phased out because of local benefits. 1-10 years of new project, 100% paid. On year 11-20, 50% of property taxes paid. Year 21-25, 25% of taxes paid and 26 and after, no property taxes are paid. **1**
- 13) Applications for funding should include greater emphasis on follow through and show proof of implementation of a county's plan. **1**
- 14) Set aside funding for a public service announcement (PSA) about how REAP benefits the state to be available for statewide distribution. **1**
- 15) Provide funding for local REAP Committees. **1**

- 16) Explore ways to make it easier to leverage other state funds. **1**
- 17) REAP partner with conservation non-governmental organizations to restore and enhance natural resources. **1**
- 18) Continue to improve and enhance our forestry programs. **1**
- 19) Review the County Conservation Board category to consider the discretion or greater emphasis on smaller projects. **1**
- 20) Increase awareness of current REAP projects involving technology to other entities. **1**
- 21) Require RV owners to purchase a natural resources license plate with the revenue to be used for campground improvements. **1**
- 22) Provide a better education for Iowans about REAP. **1**
- 23) More funding for Historical Resources in the fund distribution. **1**
- 24) Raise cap of REAP to \$30 million. **1**

Additionally, participants at each assembly broke into small groups to discuss the impact of REAP in the past 24 years and provide recommendations for the future of the program. They listed and discussed over 630 ideas, recommendations and impacts. They are listed by region in the Assembly Summary later in this document.

Below is a list of the most prevalent themes:

In the past 25 years, what do you believe are the most significant things REAP has done? Why are these important to the place you live, to the state?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Without REAP many local projects would not have happened. 2) Localized impact in every county of the state 3) Connects people to the outdoors 4) City parks/trails 5) County and state public areas 	
Positive impacts of REAP in your community: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Quality of life 2) Economic impact 3) Soil and Water Quality 4) Education 5) Trails and outdoor recreation 6) Healthy communities 	Negative impacts of REAP in your community: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Not enough funding to meet the demand for the projects 2) Can be difficult to get grant funding
What parts of REAP should continue/expand or change/eliminated?	
Continue/expand: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) More promotion/awareness about REAP's impact in Iowa 2) Fully fund REAP 3) Keep the REAP formula the same 4) Ease of grant administration 5) Continue and expand the ability to leverage funds with REAP 	Change/eliminate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Re-evaluate the rules for city grants.

Individual Assembly Summary

Cedar Falls (Black Hawk, Bremer, Buchanan, Butler, Chickasaw, Grundy)

Attendance: 46

Chair: Roger White

Approved Motions:

- 1) Recommend that the Governor and Legislature fund REAP at \$25 Million for the programs' 25th year anniversary. Vote: Unanimous.

Impacts of REAP in past 24 years:

- 1) Big Woods Lake (campground, etc)
- 2) Roof Repair at Cedar Rock
- 3) Bridge McFarlane
- 4) Boat ramps on the Wapsipinicon River
- 5) Project WET for UNI and Hawkeye Students
- 6) Waspi. Clean-up
- 7) Project AWARE
- 8) Riverview Recreation Complex
- 9) Wapsi. Greenbelt
- 10) Wilder Park
- 11) Trail System
- 12) Leverage for Grants (42 grants for \$4.4 million)
- 13) Roadside Vegetation
- 14) Buffer Strips

Positive impacts of REAP in your community:

- 1) The influence that it has on other support/partners. "If REAP is on board, it has to be good."
- 2) Spillover effect of benefits
 - a. Habitat/wildlife
 - b. Non-Game
 - c. Cross-boundary Alliances
 - i. River Corridor
 - ii. Watersheds
- 3) Campers Spending dollars locally
- 4) Leverage for other funds
- 5) Blue Zones
- 6) Employee Retention
- 7) Quality of Life: bike trails, water quality, recreation



- 15) Conserve soil and water resources with funding of practices through IDALS
- 16) Protect significant areas
- 17) Conservation Education
- 18) Increased attractiveness for community development
- 19) Economic Impact/Tourism
- 20) Raised awareness of Iowa's Resources

- 8) Jobs – Beautification
- 9) Citizen Retention
- 10) Ownership
- 11) Funding projects that wouldn't be funded otherwise
- 12) Healthier Environments
- 13) Attributes we wouldn't have otherwise
- 14) Water Quality/Flood Protection
- 15) More Campgrounds
- 16) Soil in place
- 17) Trails
- 18) Wetlands
- 19) Economic Impacts
- 20) Environmental Education

Negative impacts of REAP in your community:

- 1) Limited capacity of the Conservation Education Program with \$350,000. Static for 20 years.
- 2) Funding does not keep up with land values.
- 3) Not enough funding for good projects.
- 4) County untaxable land out of row crop production

What parts of REAP should continue/expand or change/eliminated?

Continue/expand:

- 1) Continue distribution formula. "If it ain't broke, don't fix it."
- 2) Outreach, signage, educating public/voters.
- 3) Expand CEP to \$500,000
- 4) Fully fund it
- 5) Return to \$30 Million to account for inflation
- 6) \$25 Million for the 25th year of REAP
- 7) Advertise natural resources in the state
- 8) Use REAP money to create partnership with DNR, County Conservation Boards and others with schools to create ecology programs
- 9) Like to see more money go toward that have publicity (small towns, small streams, etc).
- 10) REAP should continue to spend money in both urban and rural areas

Change/eliminate:

- 1) Promote matching funds
- 2) Fund Iowa's Water and Land Legacy

Calmar (Allamakee, Clayton, Fayette, Howard, Winneshiek)

Attendance: 30

Chair: Corey Meyer

Approved Motions:

- 1) Recommend that the Governor and Legislature fund REAP at \$25 Million for the programs' 25th year anniversary. Vote: Unanimous.
- 2) Recommend that the REAP formula stays the same. Vote: Unanimous.
- 3) Recommend that if the Iowa Legislature implement the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund (IWiLL) that REAP will not be negatively impacted. Vote: Unanimous.



Additional Recommendations:

- Celebrate REAP's 25th Anniversary by region.

Impacts of REAP in past 24 years:

- 1) Leverage dollars and match grants

- 2) Allows doing more with less. Additional funding.
- 3) State land
- 4) Education
- 5) Private land practices
- 6) Help fund recreational land acquisition, from willing sellers.

- 7) Water quality
- 8) Preserving natural resources for future
- 9) Preserve historical sites
- 10) Trails/connections
- 11) County parks/recreation
- 12) Soil and Water Conservation District Ag. Land/Windbreaks/Habitat

Positive impacts of REAP in your community:

- 1) Public land acquisition with leveraged money. Buying from willing sellers is important.
- 2) Educational component, both specific and general
- 3) Funds offered to rural and urban
- 4) The support of saving our history

- 5) Tourism: trails, river, biking
- 6) Hiring local contractor
- 7) Investment in conservation
- 8) Hunting opportunities due to better habitat
- 9) Economic impact
- 10) Local streams and lake improvements

Negative impacts of REAP in your community:

- 1) Misconception of how land is acquired.
- 2) Misconception of taxes on public land not paid.

- 3) Having to be a great grant writer
- 4) Not enough overall funding

What parts of REAP should continue/expand or change/eliminated?

Continue/expand:

- 1) Expand community tourism
- 2) Increase funding to \$25 million for 25th year.
- 3) Don't defund REAP if \$.01 sales tax (IWILL) is passed.

- 4) Make grant writing easier with simpler applications.
- 5) More money
- 6) Do not change pie chart

Change/eliminate:

- 1) Combine historic resources and conservation
- 2) More wildlife

Coralville (Benton, Iowa, Johnson, Jones, Linn, Washington)

Attendance: 50

Chair: Richard Heft

Approved Motions:

- 1) Recommend that the Governor and Legislature fund REAP at \$25 Million for the programs' 25th year anniversary. Vote: Unanimous.
- 2) Recommend that REAP is fully funded. Vote: Unanimous.
- 3) Recommend that the REAP formula stays the same. Vote: Unanimous.



- 4) Recommend that the \$0.22/1000 assessed value county millage for eligibility for county per capita and grants be raised to \$0.27. Vote: Y=26, N=5.
- 5) Recommend that the City Parks and Open Space criteria for population and award amounts are re-evaluated. Vote: Unanimous.

Impacts of REAP in past 24 years:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Wickiup Nature Center 2) Making areas user friendly 3) Trails 4) Awareness of natural areas 5) Roadside management 6) Bringing in people through amenity enhancement 7) More jobs through development 8) Interpretive programs 9) Sensitive land protection 10) Land Purchase 11) Leverage other funds and cost-sharing 12) Museums and historic education 13) Conservation education | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 14) Better soil/water quality 15) Land acquisition 16) Honey Creek Resort 17) County environmental education 18) Environmental awareness 19) Public lands 20) Community Connectivity 21) Wildlife corridors 22) Building capacity 23) City/county parks 24) Establishment of Iowa Roadside Vegetation Management 25) Recreational opportunities |
|--|--|

Positive impacts of REAP in your community:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Forever funding 2) Bipartisan support 3) We're unique=pride 4) Tourism 5) Awareness 6) Economic development 7) Health and Outdoors <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Blue Zones b. Trails for health and fitness 8) Connection to land | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9) Natural appreciation 10) Habitat 11) Education/Pre-service teacher training 12) Improved quality of life 13) Urban rain gardens 14) Bio conversion of waste 15) Land acquisition = carbon sequestration 16) Invasive species removal 17) Agriculture education for farmers |
|---|---|

Negative impacts of REAP in your community:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Limited funding/lots of competition 2) Small towns may be discouraged 3) Not enough public relations or understanding 4) Limited partnerships with common existing goals between all the agencies in attendance. 5) Unnecessary searching by legislators for reforms when REAP is the water quality answer. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6) Working together to broaden species in roadways with joint coordination. 7) The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) makes it hard for some counties. 8) Not enough funding 9) Tax increase for IWiLL needs to be passed. |
|--|--|

What parts of REAP should continue/expand or change/eliminated?

Continue/expand:

- 1) Pass IWiLL
- 2) Expand agricultural conservation practices (especially no-till)
- 3) Market REAP plates

Change/eliminate:

- 1) Economic activity based on funding projects/programs
- 2) Blue Zone as qualification for REAP grant
- 3) Increase county millage, which is currently \$.22 for county qualification
- 4) Re-examine population rules for city grants.

Maquoketa (Cedar, Clinton, Delaware, Dubuque, Jackson)

Attendance: 36

Chair: Matt O'Connor

Approved Motions:

- 1) Recommend that REAP Conservation Education Program be raised to \$500,000. Vote: Unanimous.
- 2) Recommend that the Governor and Legislature fund REAP at \$25 Million for the programs' 25th year anniversary and then fully fund from them on. Vote: Unanimous.
- 3) Recommend that if the Iowa Legislature fund the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund (IWiLL). Vote: Unanimous.
- 4) Expand existing programs to women landowners through the REAP Conservation Education Program. Vote: Y=35, N=1.
- 5) Recommend that the City Parks and Open Space population categories are re-evaluated. Vote: Unanimous.



Failed Motions:

- 1) Recommend that the \$0.22/1000 assessed value county millage for eligibility for county per capita and grants be raised to \$0.27. Vote: Y=3, N=33.

Additional Recommendations:

- Analyze REAP funded projects for return on investment.

Impacts of REAP in past 24 years:

- 1) Helped provide recreation opportunities by acquiring public lands such as Manikowski Prairie and Ringneck Marsh.
- 2) Lost Nation's park - walking trail, creek, historic railroad bridge
- 3) Public land/open spaces bring in people and money to local economies.
- 4) Access to the outdoors benefits quality of life.
- 5) We can see a noticeable difference in numbers of pheasant hunters - direct impact on local communities and businesses.
- 6) Funding City Parks and Open Spaces

- 7) Land purchases for public use
- 8) Provide consistent funding
- 9) Allowed Iowan's to think outside the box

- 10) Funds for conservation education
- 11) Ability to leverage funds
- 12) Roadside management

Positive impacts of REAP in your community:

- 1) Provides outdoor recreation opportunities and spaces
- 2) Landowner incentives to do conservation
- 3) Create jobs
- 4) Tourism i.e. \$=ecotourism

Negative impacts of REAP in your community:

- 1) Lack of money discourages participation

What parts of REAP should continue/expand or change/eliminated?

Continue/expand:

- 1) Fully fund REAP
- 2) Fully fund IWiLL, which would double REAP.

Change/eliminate:

- 1) Increase or change the Conservation Education Program to a percentage, but not less than \$350,000.
- 2) Re-evaluate City Parks and Open Spaces categories
- 3) Go to 4 categories, using population for breaks or 10 big cities, 100 medium and fund accordingly.
- 4) Re-evaluate Roadside Management Strategies and/or methods/timing. Specifically prairie areas created with REAP funding.

Ventura (Cerro Gordo, Floyd, Franklin, Hancock, Kossuth, Mitchell, Winnebago, Worth)

Attendance: 43

Chair: Andrea Evelsizer

Approved Motions:

- 1) Recommend that the Governor and Legislature fund REAP at \$25 Million for the programs' 25th year anniversary. Vote: Unanimous.
- 2) Recommend that the REAP formula stays the same. Vote: Unanimous.
- 3) Recommend that the City Parks and Open Space population categories are re-evaluated. Vote: Y=41, N=2.

Additional Recommendations:

- More outreach on REAP Conservation Education Program (CEP) Grant due dates.



Impacts of REAP in past 24 years:

- 1) Exposed natural resources to general public in Iowa.
- 2) Filled in gap between what people want and what the legislature supports.
- 3) Huge impact on local land acquisition
- 4) Increased recreation opportunities
- 5) Improved quality of life
- 6) More bang for your buck
- 7) Tremendous amount of projects that never would have happened.
- 8) Soil and Water – sloughs
- 9) Outdoor recreation sources for small cities
- 10) Railroads turned into trails.
- 11) Important funding opportunity and good match source
- 12) Water quality
- 13) Local economic development
- 14) Education outdoor/indoor

Positive impacts of REAP in your community:

- 1) Economic growth
- 2) Public outdoor recreation opportunities
- 3) Quality of life
- 4) Creators and Founders are GREAT
- 5) Formula for REAP is bulletproof!
- 6) Regional conservation efforts and long term planning and communication among local conservation players
- 7) Empowers people to have impact
- 8) REAP funds can expedite projects with Board approval.

Negative impacts of REAP in your community:

- 1) Never been fully funded
- 2) Negative public opinion about taking land out of production
- 3) Political control makes it difficult to plan
- 4) No guaranteed stability from year to year
- 5) No negative impacts of projects, just some negative impacts in process.

What parts of REAP should continue/expand or change/eliminated?**Continue/expand:**

- 1) Fully fund REAP
- 2) Keep the formula the same. It is very successful.
- 3) Expand political activism and public relations/publicity for REAP
- 4) Advocate environmental education – get kids outside

Change/eliminate:

- 1) Change community size. More money goes to big projects and small projects are missed.
- 2) Projects further from Des Moines are forgotten.

Marshalltown (Hardin, Marshall, Poweshiek, Tama)

Attendance: 24

Chair: Robert Etzel

Approved Motions:

- 1) Recommend that the Governor and Legislature fund REAP at \$25 Million for the programs' 25th year anniversary. Vote: Unanimous.
- 2) Recommend that the REAP formula stays the same. Vote: Unanimous.
- 3) Direct REAP staff to investigate mechanisms for allowing endowments for maintenance. Vote: Unanimous.
- 4) Recommend that the City Parks and Open Space population categories are re-evaluated. Vote: Unanimous.
- 5) Encourage the Legislature to raise the sales tax to support Iowa's Water and Land Legacy. Vote: Unanimous.



Impacts of REAP in past 24 years:

- 1) All connected
- 2) Environmental education
- 3) Quality of life
- 4) Recreational opportunities
- 5) Water quality
- 6) Soil Conservation
- 7) Preservation
- 8) Roadside vegetation programs
- 9) Helpful to small historic organizations
- 10) Critical land acquisition

Positive impacts of REAP in your community:

- 1) Quality of life issues
- 2) Health benefits
- 3) Economic benefits
- 4) Able to leverage other funds
- 5) Historical and outdoor education

Negative impacts of REAP in your community:

- 1) Under funded
- 2) Money for building, but not for maintenance
- 3) Ability to get project done

What parts of REAP should continue/expand or change/eliminated?

Continue/expand:

- 1) Additional funding annually for all programs.
- 2) Increase conservation education
- 3) Fully fund to support maintenance

Change/eliminate:

- 1) Create an endowment
- 2) Will small communities continue to be competitive?
- 3) Want/need a bigger piece of the pie
- 4) Evaluate scoring for cities

Correctionville (Cherokee, Ida, Monona, Plymouth, Woodbury)

Attendance: 24

Chair: Ken Greer

Approved Motions:

- 1) Consider that a portion of the natural resource license plate funds go back to the REAP County Committee. Vote: Unanimous.
- 2) Recommend that the Governor and Legislature fund REAP at \$25 Million for the programs' 25th year anniversary. Vote: Unanimous

Impacts of REAP in past 24 years:

- 1) Improved quality of life
- 2) \$57,000 Recreation Trail in Le Mars
- 3) Loess Hills State Forest and the tourism from it
- 4) Native plant plantings
- 5) Environmental education: conservation centers, exhibits, staff, specific programs
- 6) Stone State Park
- 7) Sioux City Trail
- 8) Battle Creek Park
- 9) City grants for trails which improves wellness
- 10) Land acquisition
- 11) Fire Equipment

Positive impacts of REAP in your community:

- 1) Needed projects funded that would not otherwise have been
- 2) Recreation and wellness

Negative impacts of REAP in your community:

- 1) Too much demand for money
- 2) Playing catch-up for lower funded years

What parts of REAP should continue/expand or change/eliminated?

Continue/expand:

- 1) County committee should be kept active
- 2) Five year REAP plan
- 3) Get word out
- 4) Keep formula the same
- 5) Expand financially
- 6) Water retention projects/flood control



- 12) Water Quality
- 13) Maximize funds and leverage
- 14) CCB Recreation areas
- 15) Partnerships
- 16) Opportunities
- 17) Park Improvements

- 3) Grassroots involvement/collaboration of projects
- 4) Teaching youngsters about nature

- 3) Not adequate funding

Spencer (Buena Vista, Clay, Dickinson, Emmet, Lyon, O'Brien, Osceola, Palo Alto, Sioux)

Attendance: 49

Chair: Jon Kruse

Approved Motions:

- 1) Encourage the Legislature to raise the sales tax to support Iowa's Water and Land Legacy. Vote: Unanimous.
- 2) Recommend that the Governor and Legislature fund REAP at \$25 Million for the programs' 25th year anniversary. Vote: Unanimous.
- 3) Increase REAP Conservation Education Program (CEP) to \$500,000. Vote: Unanimous
- 4) Recommend that the City Parks and Open Space allocations are re-evaluated. Vote: Unanimous.



Additional Recommendations:

- More promotional information for REAP's 25th Anniversary. Work with the Iowa Association of Naturalists.

Impacts of REAP in past 24 years:

- 1) Provide money to projects that wouldn't have been done.
- 2) Education/awareness of conservation
- 3) Allowed us to do project that we couldn't do
- 4) Acres of public land in ownership
- 5) Economic boost to region
- 6) Environmental protection region and state
- 7) Watershed protection
- 8) Land acquisition
- 9) Quality of life
- 10) County roadside program: equipment, seed, IRVM program inventories
- 11) Ability to leverage other money for projects
- 12) Developed networking with other organizations. Web of networks: city/state conservation organizations
- 13) Recreational areas bring money to community
- 14) Linking habitat quality pieces
- 15) Places to go/things to do
- 16) Trail development
- 17) Open Spaces
- 18) Historical Protection and enhancement
- 19) Conservation board improvements

Positive impacts of REAP in your community:

- 1) All the above
- 2) Boat ramp and so many specific projects to our communities
- 3) Cities able to acquire land or do projects in time of limited funding
- 4) Good foresight in original planning to develop "pie" and not change funding equation.

Negative impacts of REAP in your community:

- 1) Not enough funds – fantastic projects not funded due to lack of funding
- 2) Smaller towns don't get as much money
- 3) Never know how much you will get from year to year
- 4) Water and Land Legacy has not been addressed

- 5) Purchase land that could be farmed
- 6) Private property receives some funding (rain garden) that is unavailable to some public entities (schools)

- 7) Funding fluctuations may reduce ability to do long range projects

What parts of REAP should continue/expand or change/eliminated?

Continue/expand:

- 1) Soil and water conservation that directly affects water
- 2) REAP should continue as a whole
- 3) Roadside program needs to be managed better
- 4) Evaluate the pie pieces, not the pie (i.e. City Parks and Open Spaces)
- 5) Look at policy and procedures for each piece of pie
- 6) Fully fund REAP
- 7) Conservation Education Program doesn't fund as much as it did 24 years ago
- 8) Keep small v. small, medium v. medium etc on city competition
- 9) More land acquisition
- 10) More signage/advertise

Change/eliminate

- 1) 75 % cost share instead of 50% cost share for SWCD funds
- 2) Consider funding all counties with REAP CCB allocation (currently needs \$.22 minimum)

Carroll (Audubon, Carroll, Crawford, Greene, Guthrie, Sac)

Attendance: 18

Chair: Jack Wardell

Approved Motions:

- 1) Encourage the Legislature to raise the sales tax to support Iowa's Water and Land Legacy. Vote: Unanimous.
- 2) Recommend that the Governor and Legislature fund REAP at \$25 Million for the programs' 25th year anniversary. Vote: Unanimous.
- 3) Property tax payments are phased out because of local benefits. 1-10 years of new project, 100% paid. On year 11-20, 50% of property taxes paid. Year 21-25, 25% of taxes paid and 26 and after, no property taxes are paid. Vote: Unanimous.



Impacts of REAP in past 24 years:

- 1) Allowed us to develop projects that would not have been possible (trails, land acquisition).
- 2) Fund naturalist position that educates our youth regarding natural resource enhancement/protection.
- 3) Trail acquisition/development
- 4) Roadside management

- 5) City projects in small towns

Positive impacts of REAP in your community:

- 1) Economic development thru tourism
- 2) Trails promote health awareness/opportunity. Walkers, lots of walkers!
- 3) Increase other forms of outdoor recreation
- 4) Multi-purpose areas to use
- 5) Land acquired through REAP will be there for future generations to utilize.
- 6) Environmental education programming: salaries, nature centers and buildings.
- 7) Quality of life. People want to move or stay here
- 8) Tourism brings outside people and money. Need interconnection of trails.

Negative impacts of REAP in your community:

- 1) Public expectations greatly increased

What parts of REAP should continue/expand or change/eliminated?

Continue/expand:

- 1) Important that the formula should remain as it is.
- 2) Fund REAP at \$25 million to keep pace with land/project cost increases.
- 3) Habitat loss is huge! Habitat replacement on public and private land.
- 4) Need streamside filter strips (greenbelts)

Change/eliminate

- 1) None

Muscatine (Muscatine, Scott)

Attendance: 20

Chair: Steve Ahrens

Approved Motions:

- 1) Recommend that the Governor and Legislature fund REAP at \$25 Million for the programs' 25th year anniversary. Vote: Unanimous.
- 2) Applications for funding should include greater emphasis on follow through and show proof of implementation of a county's plan. Vote: Unanimous.
- 3) Set aside funding for a public service announcement (PSA) about how REAP benefits the state to be available for statewide distribution. Vote: Unanimous.
- 4) The REAP funding mechanism should remain the same. Vote: Unanimous.

Impacts of REAP in past 24 years:

- 1) Quality of life
 - a. Trails for wellness and economic
 - b. Land is useful to folks for use for conservation/preservation
- 2) Land acquisition. Dwindling amounts left and need to protect wildlife and native species.
- 3) Amenities for trails (lighting, benches, restrooms)



- 4) Enhancing natural areas (Pigeon Creek)
- 5) Environmental education
- 6) Large presence for historical preservation
- 7) Protect soil and water quality for food and water consumption and ag. production.
- 8) Roadside vegetation
- 9) Also provides local resources to educate public regarding importance of natural resources.

- 10) Historical resources preservation for historical legacy and tourism/economic impact
- 11) Beneficial to all communities- large and small.
 - a. Ease of application and administrative process and no match requirements.

Positive impacts of REAP in your community:

- 1) More education
- 2) Increase recreation opportunities
- 3) Improved soil and water quality
- 4) Improved habitat
- 5) Preserve natural and historical areas

Negative impacts of REAP in your community:

- 1) Lack of education/publicity about program, “Funded by REAP”

What parts of REAP should continue/expand or change/eliminated?

Continue/expand:

- 1) More land protection acquisition
- 2) Retain successful formula
- 3) Increase REAP funding

Change/eliminate:

- 1) More publicity required with awarding of grant

Burlington (Des Moines, Henry, Lee, Louisa)

Attendance: 25

Chair: Al Ourth

Approved Motions:

- 1) Provide funding for local REAP Committees. Vote: Unanimous.
- 2) Recommend that the Governor and Legislature fund REAP at \$25 Million for the programs’ 25th year anniversary. Vote: Unanimous.

Impacts of REAP in past 24 years:

- 1) Land and recreation areas accessible to all, including urbanites.
- 2) Clean water
- 3) Soil conservation
- 4) Trails
- 5) Honey Creek
- 6) Public hunting
- 7) Private land assistance
- 8) Roadside beauty
- 9) Biodiversity
- 10) Conservation Education
- 11) Dedicated funding
- 12) Acquisition of land
- 13) Wapello City Park
- 14) Farmstead windbreaks
- 15) TSI



16) Tree plantings

17) Handicap accessibility

Positive impacts of REAP in your community:

- 1) Allow public greater access to natural areas
- 2) Health and wellness with trails
- 3) Water and land improvements
- 4) Water quality
- 5) Soil quality
- 6) Environmental education

- 7) Flint River Trail
- 8) Overall community enhancement
- 9) Tourism
- 10) Leveraging other funds
- 11) Public hunting areas
- 12) Quality of life
- 13) Economic health

Negative impacts of REAP in your community:

- 1) Only complaint is land take off county tax rolls for county acquisition
- 2) Trails across private property
- 3) Competition decreases money elsewhere
- 4) Lose interest in projects without money
- 5) Project may not fit perfectly and scores low
- 6) Local match not always feasible

What parts of REAP should continue/expand or change/eliminated?

Continue/expand:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) More money or fully funded or \$25 million2) Continue with formula3) More public recognition of funding use4) Talk to state legislators5) Expand to water quality6) Expand Urban conservation7) Expand Trails and Recreation areas | <ol style="list-style-type: none">8) More conservation education funds9) Support for plans/forming committees10) Grant writing workshops11) County conservation: split into acquisition and development (trails?)12) More urban conservation13) More dialogue with legislators14) Public education about REAP |
|---|---|

Change/eliminate:

- 1) Improve collaboration/cooperation between pie slices

Fairfield (Davis, Jefferson, Keokuk, Mahaska, Van Buren, Wapello)

Attendance: 34

Chair: Detra Dettman

Approved Motions:

- 1) Recommend that the Governor and Legislature fund REAP at \$25 Million for the programs' 25th year anniversary. Vote: Unanimous.
- 2) Recommend that the REAP formula stays the same. Vote: Unanimous.
- 3) Explore ways to make it easier to leverage other state funds. Vote: Unanimous.
- 4) REAP partner with conservation non-governmental organizations to restore and enhance natural resources. Vote: Unanimous.
- 5) Continue to improve and enhance our forestry programs. Vote: Unanimous.



Impacts of REAP in past 24 years:

- 1) Provides grassroots funding with local match.
- 2) Trickle down/runs through community
- 3) Land acquisition, key to preservation of fragile habitat/public areas
- 4) Park expansion
- 5) Native vegetation awareness
- 6) Water quality
- 7) Habitat and promotes wildlife
- 8) Scenic beauty
- 9) Education is locally led
- 10) Preservation of heritage
- 11) Trails: health and connect people to the environment
- 12) Historic preservation
- 13) Courthouse: kept building useable and provides a connection to past and economic development
- 14) Keeps economic benefits from going elsewhere
- 15) Soil Conservation
- 16) Urban rain gardens
- 17) Fox River

Positive impacts of REAP in your community:

- 1) See all above
- 2) Ottumwa trail system
- 3) Eldon Park and trail development
- 4) Public land acquisition
- 5) People using trails and parks for outdoor recreation
- 6) Tourism dollars generated from REAP funds provide ongoing enhancements

Negative impacts of REAP in your community:

- 1) Not enough money in REAP

What parts of REAP should continue/expand or change/eliminated?

Continue/expand:

- 1) More funding – Sales tax increase
- 2) Original money in distribution formula works well
- 3) REAP should be fully funded
- 4) Fund wildlife habitat restoration – Pheasant/Quail
- 5) Build trail from Des Moines to Keokuk

Change/eliminate:

- 1) Clairvoyant grant funding
- 2) More categories in pie pieces
- 3) Change to better leverage other state funds
- 4) Roadside vegetation sent to farmers for hay
- 5) Nutrient management – control of nitrate run-off

Shenandoah (Fremont, Mill, Montgomery, Page)

Attendance: 20

Chair: Bill Danforth

Approved Motions:

- 1) Recommend that the Governor and Legislature fund REAP at \$25 Million for the programs' 25th year anniversary. Vote: Unanimous.
- 2) Review the County Conservation Board category to consider the discretion or greater emphasis on smaller projects. Vote: Unanimous.

Impacts of REAP in past 24 years:

- 1) Land acquisition and putting ground back into natural state
- 2) Urban outdoor education
- 3) Windbreaks
- 4) Soil and water quality
- 5) Improve the quality of life
- 6) Increase public areas
- 7) Has helped preserve Iowa. Restored and preserved land use
- 8) Wabash Trace
- 9) Viking Lake
- 10) General trails
- 11) Brings people to area and drives economic development

Positive impacts of REAP in your community:

- 1) Wabash popularity (trails that wouldn't be there otherwise)
- 2) Soil and water improvements
- 3) Education of farmers and others
- 4) Pay taxes on state acquisitions
- 5) More money for more practices on the land
- 6) Economic development

Negative impacts of REAP in your community:

- 1) Loss of private land
- 2) Loss of REAP practices

What parts of REAP should continue/expand or change/eliminated?

Continue/expand:

- 1) Increase education funding
- 2) Need full REAP Funding or \$25 million for 25th year
- 3) Keep pie percentages the same
- 4) Increase of awareness in public and educational settings

Change/eliminate:

- 1) Spread money among more projects or more projects funded for lesser amounts.
- 2) Tax credit for land gifts to conservation organizations



Council Bluffs (Cass, Harrison, Pottawattamie, Shelby)

Attendance: 23

Chair: Tim Sproul

Approved Motions:

- 1) Recommend that the Governor and Legislature fund REAP at \$25 Million for the programs' 25th year anniversary. Vote: Unanimous.
- 2) Recommend that if the Iowa Legislature fund the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund (IWiLL) without compromising REAP funding. Vote: Unanimous.
- 3) Increase awareness of current REAP projects involving technology to other entities. Vote: Unanimous.



Impacts of REAP in past 24 years:

- 1) Leveraging other funds
- 2) Critical money for conservation
- 3) Land acquisition and protection
- 4) Projects on the ground
- 5) True conservation projects, not just infrastructure
- 6) Local control of funds and projects
- 7) Getting stakeholders facilities that get them outside
- 8) Opportunities for small communities
- 9) Hitchcock Nature Center
- 10) State Park Funding
- 11) Protected Lands: Recreation and Soil and water conservation
- 12) Right of ways management
- 13) Quality of life

Positive impacts of REAP in your community:

- 1) See above
- 2) Make communities more attractive
- 3) Economic impact
- 4) Saving money through improved land protection and water quality
- 5) Healthier community
- 6) Quality of life
- 7) Educational opportunities
- 8) Bringing communities together
- 9) Assistance to non-traditional ag lands
- 10) Historical Preservation
- 11) Funding for many programs
- 12) Categories are consistent
- 13) Leveraging other funds
- 14) Every Iowan is helped

Negative impacts of REAP in your community:

- 1) Failed to communicate importance of conservation to enough farmers
- 2) Lack of education about projects and REAP program.

What parts of REAP should continue/expand or change/eliminated?

Continue/expand:

- 1) Keep REAP fully funded
- 2) Maintain current structure

Fort Dodge (Calhoun, Hamilton, Humboldt, Pocahontas, Webster, Wright)

Attendance: 27

Chair: Brian Lammers

Approved Motions:

- 1) Recommend that the Governor and Legislature fund REAP at \$25 Million for the programs' 25th year anniversary. Vote: Unanimous.
- 2) Require RV owners to purchase a natural resources license plate with the revenue to be used for campground improvements. Vote: Unanimous.
- 3) Ask REAP Congress to show support for IWiLL. Vote: Unanimous.
- 4) Provide a better education for Iowans about REAP. Vote: Unanimous.
- 5) More funding for Historical Resources in the fund distribution. Vote: Unanimous



Additional Recommendations:

- 1) Have promotional material for natural resources license plates available at campgrounds.

Impacts of REAP in past 24 years:

- 1) Trails: all purpose and water trails
- 2) Parks: OHV, Webster County Nature Center
- 3) Open spaces areas
- 4) Boone River
- 5) Water and soil quality
- 6) County conservation efforts
- 7) Education
- 8) Quality of life
- 9) Economic Development
- 10) Ability to multiply funds
- 11) Recreation trail grants which wouldn't happen without REAP match
- 12) Permanently protecting land
- 13) Nature Centers in early years
- 14) Water quality projects
- 15) Windbreaks
- 16) Forest restoration
- 17) Wetlands
- 18) Shelters
- 19) Education

Positive impacts of REAP in your community:

- 1) Use of trails has turned doubters into advocates
- 2) Economic development with after work activities
- 3) Sense of pride and clean-up of facilities
- 4) Areas with access to outdoor open space
- 5) Doubters sometimes don't understand all aspects (property taxes)
- 6) Education
- 7) Publicity
- 8) Urban landscape changes/run-off
- 9) Money touches everyone
- 10) Ability to multiple funds
- 11) Quality of life
- 12) Water quality
- 13) Recreational opportunities
- 14) Population retention
- 15) Healthy lifestyle
- 16) Gets people outside

Negative impacts of REAP in your community:

- 1) Lack of education

- 2) Misunderstood water quality
- 3) Sometimes (seldom) farm ground is used that maybe should not
- 4) Grant limitations and competitiveness

What parts of REAP should continue/expand or change/eliminated?

Continue/expand:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Water quality and soil conservation 2) Plan for historic properties (many in downtown) 3) Marketing Iowa out of state 4) Dept. of Tourism and IEDA should better partner but we should be more proactive 5) Continue REAP, even with IWiLL passage | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6) Fully Fund REAP 7) Keep formula the same 8) More money to REAP CEP 9) Promote REAP through social media 10) Increase grant availability 11) Consistent REAP funding 12) Emphasis on water quality |
|---|--|

Change/eliminate:

- 1) Use of funds for bond payoff

Lovilia (Appanoose, Lucas, Monroe, Wayne)

Attendance: 22

Chair: Lyle Asell

Approved Motions:

- 1) Recommend that the Governor and Legislature fund REAP at \$25 Million for the programs' 25th year anniversary. Vote: Unanimous.
- 2) Maintain current formula. Vote: Unanimous.

Impacts of REAP in past 24 years:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Water quality protection 2) Trails 3) Enables counties to develop wild habitat and recreation opportunities that normally would not happen. 4) Provide funding source for state parks. Capital projects, such as campgrounds and trails 5) Landmark legislation that captures many categories concerning conservation. Creating public access and awareness. 6) Enables conservation efforts on private grounds. 7) REAP funds create a ripple effect that brings money to rural communities. 8) Promotes healthy living...trails | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9) REAP partnered money increases park and wildlife area usage 10) Brings our nature deprived society to the area to spend money and enjoy! 11) County land acquisition 12) Iowa roadside vegetation plantings 13) Watershed projects 14) Private landowner contract management and cost share |
|---|---|



Positive impacts of REAP in your community:

- 1) More parks/nature areas and less hog confinements
- 2) Somewhat easily administered
- 3) Positive health benefit

Negative impacts of REAP in your community:

- 1) In years of low funding, feelings of frustration can be felt in a community. Not able to complete a project or simply not fund projects
- 2) Not enough money
- 3) Highly competitive

What parts of REAP should continue/expand or change/eliminated?

Continue/expand:

- 1) Communication, education regarding REAP, get the word out
- 2) Management continuation after a project has been implemented
- 3) Focus on grassroots efforts/education
- 4) Land/open space acquisitions
- 5) Wilderness style recreation
- 6) Restoration – Native eco-systems
- 7) Less industrial agriculture
- 8) Be strategic on the location of land purchases... i.e. watersheds of drinking water supply reservoirs. S
- 9) Increase in education funding
- 10) Improve maintenance/management of the land
- 11) Set a timeframe or cutoff date for mowing Iowa roadsides
- 12) \$25 million for the 25th Anniversary
- 13) Money to help landowners and municipalities to plant tree/prairie plants (local eco-type seeds)

Change/eliminate:

- 1) Phase out property taxes paid by REAP after 15-20 years.
- 2) Less industrial/corporate ag. More organic small farms

Afton (Adair, Adams, Clarke, Decatur, Madison, Ringgold, Taylor, Union)

Attendance: 21

Chair: Kate Zimmerman

Approved Motions:

- 1) Raise cap of REAP to \$30 million. Vote: 20=Yes, 1=No.

Impacts of REAP in past 24 years:

- 1) Water quality protection
- 2) Trails
- 3) Land acquisition
- 4) County/City park projects
- 5) Able to do things that otherwise wouldn't have

Positive impacts of REAP in your community:

- 1) Matching funds



- 2) Leverage

- 3) Jump starts projects
- 4) Local return of funds

- 5) Tourism

Negative impacts of REAP in your community:

- 1) Not enough funding
- 2) Expand soil conservation efforts
- 3) How will we maintain funding in the future?

- 4) Be conscious that land purchase requires future funds to maintain
- 5) Continued efforts for conservation on private lands

What parts of REAP should continue/expand or change/eliminated?

Continue/expand:

- 1) Full funding
- 2) Continue program
- 3) Expand to rural areas

- 4) Keep focus where it is
- 5) Raise the cap beyond \$20 million

West Des Moines (Boone, Dallas, Jasper, Marion, Polk, Story, Warren)

Attendance: 32

Chair: Mark Ackelson

Approved Motions:

- 1) Recommend that the Governor and Legislature fund REAP at \$25 Million for the programs' 25th year anniversary. Vote: Unanimous.
- 2) Encourage the Legislature to raise the sales tax to support Iowa's Water and Land Legacy. Vote: Unanimous.

Impacts of REAP in past 24 years:

- 1) Trails
- 2) Leveraging funds
- 3) Economic development tool
- 4) Land acquisition
- 5) Protection of corridors
- 6) Public access to outdoor opportunities
- 7) Education for public
- 8) Allowing communities to develop green spaces
- 9) Leverage money to increase public lands ownership
- 10) Storm water management education
- 11) IRVM program
- 12) Public participate
- 13) Leverage 3 x
- 14) Funds there every year
- 15) Target needs
- 16) Develop urban program



- 17) Healthier living
- 18) Economic stimulus i.e. High Trestle Trail and the new businesses
- 19) Marry quality of life, economic stimuli and natural resources
- 20) Ability to protect the natural resources that we already have and save the pieces
- 21) Partnerships and leveraging of diverse entities working together
- 22) Environmental education programming – ability to do innovative pilot programming. The grant program allowing other counties to copy/use a good/successful grant

Positive impacts of REAP in your community:

- 1) Allows communities to do projects they normally wouldn't be able to do.
- 2) Help preserve natural areas
- 3) Job creation
- 4) Cost share incentive
- 5) Education
- 6) Increased trail usage and related health benefits
- 7) Increased public awareness of REAP
- 8) Encourages holistic natural resource conservation in communities

Negative impacts of REAP in your community:

- 1) Too low of funding level
- 2) Smaller counties feel they won't get funded in competition with bigger counties
- 3) Not enough to fully fund REAP
- 4) County Conservation Boards must fund at the millage level to receive funding
- 5) REAP has not been fully funded. Always more applications than money available.

What parts of REAP should continue/expand or change/eliminated?

Continue/expand:

- 1) Increase funding
- 2) Keep distribution the same
- 3) Maintain into the future
- 4) More public awareness
- 5) Promote more grant requests
- 6) Expand environmental education funding
- 7) Don't short the EE for kids – future generations
- 8) \$25 million for the 25th Anniversary of REAP

Change/eliminate:

- 1) Give additional points for county/park and rec. or other entities that are working together on a grant.
- 2) More needed for land protection
- 3) Fund more research projects
- 4) Designate green space in each community
- 5) Fund sustainable development in communities